

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Hoa Nguyen on 07/21/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Title: replace [analysis] with -- quantification -- and [acid] with -- acids --.

In Claim 25, in second line: delete [identification and];

in front of "carboxylic acid" insert -- a --

in step a) in front of "carboxylic acid" insert -- said --;

in steps b) and c) after "said" and in front of "sample" insert -- aqueous --;

in step c) after "reagent" insert -- under basic conditions --;

in step e) replace [analyzing] with -- quantifying --; after "carboxylic acid ester"

replace [and] with -- using --; delete [in the extract].

2. **Claims 25, 27-40, 42 and 45** are allowed. The new numbering of claims is 1 through 17. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of Magera and Hušek cited in the previous Office actions (see e.g. OA from 09/25/07) does not teach or fairly suggest the method recited in the pending claims, as correctly indicated by the Applicants in their Remarks filed on 12/10/07. The amendment filed by the Applicants on 06/09/08 and the instant Examiner's Amendment overcome rejections of the pending claims under 112, first and second paragraphs.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yelena G. Gakh, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-1257. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yelena G. Gakh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

7/21/2008